

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended): A disk drive comprising:
  - a disk drive base;
  - a head stack assembly rotatably attached to the disk drive base; and
  - a spindle motor attached to the disk drive base including:
    - a spindle motor hub;
    - a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and
    - a spindle motor stator including:
      - a stator rim;

a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor hub; and at least one bare stator tooth internally extending from the stator rim between two respective ones of the wound stator teeth; ~~the at least one bare stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the at least one bare stator tooth.~~

wherein the head stack assembly is positioned to pivot over the at least one bare stator tooth.

16. (Currently Amended): A disk drive comprising:

a disk drive base;  
a head stack assembly rotatably attached to the disk drive base; and  
a spindle motor attached to the disk drive base including:  
a spindle motor hub;  
a magnet radially attached about the spindle motor hub; and  
a spindle motor stator including:

a stator rim;

a plurality of wound stator teeth arrayed about and internally extending from the stator rim, windings being formed about the wound stator teeth, the wound stator teeth being sized to fit about the magnet in operable communication therewith for rotating the spindle motor

hub, at least one of the wound stator teeth being a reduced winding height stator tooth, windings being formed about the reduced winding height stator tooth to a winding height less than that of a remainder of the wound stator teeth, ~~the reduced winding height stator tooth being positionable adjacent the head stack assembly for allowing the head stack assembly to pivot over the reduced winding height stator tooth.~~

wherein the head stack assembly is positioned to pivot over the at least one reduced winding height stator tooth and not over any of the remaining stator teeth that are not a reduced winding height stator tooth.